

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

### **Claims 1-19 (Cancelled)**

**20. (Currently Amended)** A reproduction apparatus which reads and reproduces audio information and ~~another kind of~~other information, from a recording medium where the audio information and ~~another kind of~~the other information are recorded, ~~characterized in that:~~  
~~the reproduction apparatus includes,~~the reproduction apparatus comprising:

a reading ~~means~~section for reading, ~~from the recording medium,~~ the audio information ~~from the record medium, and reading, from the record medium, another kind of~~and the other information, recorded in a different position, on the recording medium, from ~~the a~~ position of the audio ~~information,~~information;

a capacity-lowering ~~means~~section for lowering ~~the a~~ capacity of the audio information read by the reading ~~means,~~section;

an audio storing ~~means~~section for storing the audio information having a lowered capacity; ~~whose capacity is lowered by the capacity lowering means,~~

an audio reproducing ~~means~~section for reproducing the audio information stored in the audio storing ~~means,~~section;

an ~~another kind of information~~other information storing ~~means~~section for storing ~~another kind of~~the other information read by the reading ~~means,~~section; and

an ~~another kind of information~~other information reproducing ~~means~~section for reproducing ~~another kind of~~the other information stored in the ~~another kind of information~~other information storing ~~means,~~section, wherein

the audio information includes first audio ~~information,~~information and second audio information, ~~which is~~ the second audio information being continuously reproduced after the first audio information; and

the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section lowers the capacity of the first audio information read by the reading ~~means~~section, ~~so,~~ such that ~~the reading of~~ the second audio information is ~~completed~~read before ~~the reproduction of~~ the first audio information is completed, ~~for during~~ the a period of time when ~~another kind of~~the other information is reproduced by the ~~another kind of~~other information reproducing ~~means~~section, and outputs a part of the first audio information

having the lowered capacity and a different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, such that a capacity-lowering ratio, at a boundary between the part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and the different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, gradually changes.

**21. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that ~~another kind of~~the other information is at least ~~either of~~ image information ~~and or~~ video information.

**22. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section lowers ~~the a~~ sampling frequency of the audio information read by the reading ~~means~~section.

**23. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section reduces ~~the a~~ quantization bit number of the audio information read by the reading ~~means~~section.

**24. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section detects at least one of ~~a~~the silent interval, an interlude interval, a prelude interval, and a voiceless interval, ~~of in~~ the audio information read by the reading ~~means~~section, and lowers the capacity of only the part which corresponds to at least the one of the silent interval, the interlude interval, the prelude interval, and the voiceless interval.

**25. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section changes the capacity-lowering ratio in accordance with a ~~the~~ sound volume of the audio information read by the reading ~~means~~section.

**26. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section changes the capacity-lowering ratio in

accordance with at least either of ~~the quantity of a change in the sound pitch and or the quantity~~  
~~of a change in the sound loudness of the audio information read by the reading means~~section.

**27. (Cancelled)**

**28. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20,  
characterized in that the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section changes the capacity-lowering ratio of  
the audio information read by the reading ~~means~~section, based on the storage capacity of the  
audio storing ~~means~~section.

**29. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 20,  
characterized in that the recording medium, where the audio information and ~~another kind of the~~  
other information are recorded, is a disk-shaped rotary recording medium.

**30. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 29,  
characterized in that ~~in~~on the disk-shaped rotary recording medium, information is recorded  
using one of a magnetic phenomenon, an optical phenomenon, an electrical phenomenon, and a  
combination of some of these phenomena.

**31. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 30,  
characterized in that the reading ~~means~~section includes a head, which executes a scan on the  
disk-shaped rotary recording medium and reads information recorded ~~thereon on the medium~~  
using one of a magnetic phenomenon, an optical phenomenon, an electrical phenomenon, and a  
combination of some of these phenomena.

**32. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 31,  
characterized in that the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section changes the capacity-lowering ratio of  
the audio information read by the reading ~~means~~section, based on the movement speed of the  
head.

**33. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 32, characterized in that the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section changes the capacity-lowering ratio of the audio information read by the reading ~~means~~section, based on ~~at~~the movement speed of ~~the~~a head and ~~the~~a storage capacity of the audio storing ~~means~~section.

**34. (Currently Amended)** The reproduction apparatus according to claim 29, characterized in that the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section changes the capacity-lowering ratio of the audio information read by the reading ~~means~~section, based on the position on the recording medium ~~in which~~where the audio information is recorded and the position on the recording medium ~~in which~~where the ~~another kind of~~other information is recorded.

**35. (Currently Amended)** A reproduction processing circuit which reproduces audio information and ~~another kind of~~other information read from a recording medium where the audio information and ~~another kind of~~the other information are recorded, ~~characterized in that:~~  
~~the reproduction processing circuit includes,~~the reproduction processing circuit comprising:

an information deciding section for deciding ~~which~~whether the information read from the recording medium ~~is,~~the ~~is~~the audio information or ~~another kind of~~the other information;

a capacity-lowering section for lowering a capacity of the audio information and storing the audio information having a lowered capacity in an audio storing section, if ~~the decision is made~~it is determined that the information read from the record medium is the audio information, ~~then lowering the capacity of the audio information and storing the audio information whose capacity is lowered in an audio storing section;~~ and

an expanding section for expanding the audio information stored in the audio storing ~~section;~~section, wherein

the audio information includes first audio ~~information,~~information and second audio information, ~~the second audio information being~~which is continuously reproduced after the first audio information; and

the capacity-lowering section lowers the capacity of the first audio information, expanded by the expanding section, ~~so such~~that the reading of the second audio information is ~~completed~~read before ~~the reproduction of the first audio information is completed,~~and outputs a part of the first audio information having a lowered capacity and a different part of the first audio

information not having the lowered capacity, such that a capacity-lowering ratio, at a boundary between the part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and the different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, gradually changes.

**36. (Currently Amended)** A reproduction method for reading and reproducing audio information and ~~another kind of~~other information from a recording medium where the audio information and ~~another kind of~~the other information are recorded, ~~characterized in that:~~  
~~the reproduction method includes,~~the reproduction method comprising:

~~an audio information reading step of reading, from the recording medium, the audio information; from the record medium;~~

~~a capacity lowering step of lowering the~~a capacity of the read audio information ~~read in the audio information reading step;~~

~~an audio storing step of storing, in an audio storing means~~section, the audio information having a lowered capacity; ~~whose capacity is lowered in the capacity lowering step;~~

~~an audio reproducing step of reproducing the audio information stored in the audio storing means~~section,

~~an another kind of information reading step of reading, from the recording medium, another kind of~~the other information recorded in a different position from ~~the~~a position of the audio ~~information;~~information;

~~an another kind of information storing step of storing, in an another kind of information~~other information storing means~~section, another kind of~~the read other information ~~read in the another kind of information reading step, and~~

~~an another kind of information reproducing step of reproducing another kind of~~the other information stored in the ~~another kind of information~~other information storing ~~means;~~wherein

the audio information includes first audio ~~information;~~information and second audio information, the second audio information being ~~which is~~ continuously reproduced after the first audio information; and

~~in the capacity lowering step, the capacity of the read~~ first audio information ~~read in the audio information reading step is lowered, so~~such that ~~the reading of~~ the second audio information is ~~completed~~read before ~~the~~ reproduction of the first audio information is completed, ~~for~~during a the period of time when ~~another kind of~~the other information is

~~reproduced in the another kind of information reproducing step, and outputs a part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and a different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, such that a capacity-lowering ratio, at a boundary between the part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and the different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, gradually changes.~~

**37. (Currently Amended)** A computer-readable recording medium where on which a reproduction program is recorded, the reproduction program for reading and reproducing audio information and ~~another kind of other~~ information from a recording medium where the audio information and ~~another kind of the other~~ information are recorded, ~~characterized in that:~~ the reproduction program allows a computer to function as, the reproduction program comprising:

a reading ~~means~~section for reading, from the recording medium, the audio information ~~from the record medium, and reading, from the record medium, another kind of and the other~~ information, recorded in a different position from ~~the a~~ position of the audio ~~information, information;~~

a capacity-lowering ~~means~~section for lowering ~~the a~~ capacity of the audio information read by the reading ~~means,~~section;

an audio storing ~~means~~section for storing the audio information ~~whose capacity is lowered by the capacity-lowering means,~~ having a lowered capacity;

an audio reproducing ~~means~~section for reproducing the audio information stored in the audio storing ~~means~~section,

an ~~another kind of information~~other information storing ~~means~~section for storing ~~another kind of the other~~ information read by the reading ~~means~~section, and

an ~~another kind of information~~other information reproducing ~~means~~section for reproducing ~~another kind of the other~~ information stored in the ~~another kind of information~~other information storing ~~means,~~section, wherein

the audio information includes first audio ~~information,~~information and second audio information, the second audio information being ~~which is~~ continuously reproduced after the first audio information; ~~and, and~~

the capacity-lowering ~~means~~section lowers the capacity of the first audio information read by the reading ~~means~~section, ~~so such~~ that ~~the reading of~~ the second audio information is ~~completed read~~ before the reproduction of the first audio information is completed, ~~for during the~~ a period of time when ~~another kind of~~ the other information is reproduced by the ~~another kind of information~~ other information reproducing ~~means~~section, and outputs a part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and a different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, such that a capacity-lowering ratio, at a boundary between the part of the first audio information having the lowered capacity and the different part of the first audio information not having the lowered capacity, gradually changes.